

Appl. No.: 10/053,830
Amdt. dated May 5, 2009
Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle, the rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a support structure for mounting the mirror assembly to the vehicle, the support structure including a first part having a substantially permanent connection to the vehicle and a second part;

the support structure further including a snap-in detent arrangement;

a snap-in spring element affixed to the support structure first part which snaps into a corresponding recess in the support structure second part;

a support arm mounting at least one mirror, disposed on said first part of the support structure and the second part of the support structure being disposed on the support arm; and

a locking mechanism disposed on the support structure for selectively locking together the first and second parts of the support structure for securing the support arm and mirror to the vehicle, the locking mechanism including a key activated mechanism including a key cylinder mounted on the first part of the support structure and a rotatable latch member operatively connected to and rotatable via the key cylinder for selectively lockingly engaging with the second part of the support structure.

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Claims 2 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, further including an adjustment mechanism attached to the support arm, the adjustment mechanism configured to allow the support arm to be pivoted relative to the vehicle.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, wherein the support structure first part includes a clamp receptacle affixed to the vehicle, and the support structure second part includes an insertable component inserted into the clamp receptacle in an inserting direction, further including a slidably installed clamping wedge on the insertable component, the wedge, upon pushing of the insertable component, clampingly locking the insertable component and the clamping wedge to the clamp receptacle.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 3, wherein the clamping wedge is slidable on the insertable component in a direction at right angles to the inserting direction of the insertable component.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, wherein the support structure includes a snap-in detent apparatus.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 5, wherein the snap-in detent apparatus includes a snap-in spring element affixed to the support structure first part and which snaps into a corresponding recess in the support structure second part.

Claims 7-10 (cancelled)

Claims 11 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, further including a cover removably attachable to the support structure first part, removal of the cover

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exposing the locking mechanism.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle, the rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a support structure for mounting the mirror assembly to the vehicle, the support structure including a first part for substantially permanent connection to the vehicle and a second part for selective connection to the first part, the support structure including a snap-in detent apparatus including a spring element affixed to the first part and a recess in the second part for receiving the spring element;

a support arm on which at least one mirror is mounted, the second part of the support structure being disposed on the support arm;

a locking mechanism disposed on the support structure for selectively locking together the first and second parts of the support structure to thereby secure the support arm and mirror to the vehicle; and

a cover removably attachable to the support structure first part, removal of the cover exposing the locking mechanism and the spring element.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12, wherein the locking mechanism is a key activated locking mechanism.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 12, wherein the locking mechanism is mounted on the first part of the support structure for selectively lockingly engaging the second part of the support structure.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 11, wherein the support structure first part includes a clamp receptacle affixed to the vehicle, and the support structure second part includes an insertable component inserted into the clamp

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receptacle in an inserting direction, further including a slidably installed clamping wedge on the insertable component, the wedge, upon pushing of the insertable component, clampingly locking the insertable component and the clamping wedge to the clamp receptacle.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle, the rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a support structure for mounting the mirror assembly to the vehicle, the support structure including a first part for substantially permanent connection to the vehicle and a second part for selective connection to the first part, the support structure including a snap-in detent apparatus including a spring element affixed to the first part and a recess in the second part for receiving the spring element, the support structure first part including a clamp receptacle affixed to the vehicle, and the support structure second part including an insertable component inserted into the clamp receptacle in an inserting direction, further including a slidably installed clamping wedge on the insertable component, the wedge, upon pushing of the insertable component, clampingly locking the insertable component and the clamping wedge to the clamp receptacle;

a support arm on which at least one mirror is mounted, the second part of the support structure being disposed on the support arm;

a locking mechanism disposed on the support structure for selectively locking together the first and second parts of the support structure to thereby secure the support arm and mirror to the vehicle, the locking mechanism being mounted on the first

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part of the support structure for selectively lockingly engaging the second part of the support structure; and

a cover removably attachable to the support structure first part, removal of the cover exposing the locking mechanism and the spring element.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 16, wherein the locking mechanism is a key activated locking mechanism.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, further including an adjustment mechanism attached to the support arm, the adjustment mechanism configured to allow the support arm to be pivoted relative to the vehicle.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle, the rearview mirror assembly comprising:

a support structure for mounting the mirror assembly to the vehicle, the support structure including a first part having a substantially permanent connection to the vehicle and a second part;

the support structure first part includes a clamp receptacle affixed to the vehicle, and the support structure second part includes an insertable component inserted into the clamp receptacle in an inserting direction, further including a slidably installed clamping wedge on the insertable component, the wedge, upon pushing of the insertable component, clampingly locking the insertable component and the clamping wedge to the clamp receptacle;

a support arm mounting at least one mirror, disposed on said first part of the support structure and the second part of the support structure being disposed on the

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support arm; and

a locking mechanism disposed on the support structure for selectively locking together the first and second parts of the support structure for securing the support arm and mirror to the vehicle, the locking mechanism including a key activated mechanism including a key cylinder mounted on the first part of the support structure and a rotatable latch member operatively connected to and rotatable via the key cylinder for selectively lockingly engaging with the second part of the support structure.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 19, wherein the clamping wedge is slidable on the insertable component in a direction at right angles to the inserting direction of the insertable component.

Claim 21-22 (cancel)

Claim 23 (previously presented): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, further including a removable cover attachable to the support structure first part for covering the locking mechanism.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A rearview mirror assembly as in ~~claim 22~~ claim 1, further including a removable cover attachable to the support structure first part, said cover covering the locking mechanism and the snap-in spring element.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A rearview mirror assembly as in claim 1, wherein the latch member is hook-shaped.